

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

With entry of this amendment, claims 1-5, 8-12, and 26 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 6, 7, 13-25, 27, and 28 are canceled and claims 1, 12, and 26 are amended as set forth in detail below. No new matter is added by these amendments. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims of original scope in a related, co-pending application. In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, reconsideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

In order to further expedite prosecution of the instant application, independent claims 1, 12, and 26 have been amended to limit the recited HIV-1 pol polypeptide of no more than 60 amino acid residues in length to a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3. The Examiner has indicated that these amendments would render claims 1-5 and 8-12 allowable. The Examiner has also indicated that claim 26, if limited to SEQ ID NO:3 for the HIV-1 pol polypeptide, would be rejoined and allowable. Accordingly, in view of the present amendments, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of claim 26 and an indication of allowability for claims 1-5, 8-12, and 26 as currently amended.

Also for the purpose of further expediting prosecution of this application, claims 6 and 7, as well as withdrawn claims 13-15, 26, and 27, have been canceled without prejudice.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 6 and 7 remain rejected as allegedly indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for reciting "substantially all of the immunological reactivity." While Applicants do not agree with the rejection for at least the reasons of record, this rejection is obviated by the cancellation of claims 6 and 7, as set forth above.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 3, 5-9, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Cosand *et al.* (U.S. 5,075,211). Also, Claims 2, 4, 10, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly unpatentable over Cosand *et al.*

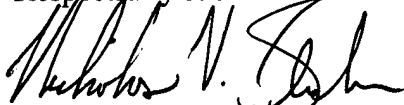
While Applicants do not necessarily agree with these rejections, Applicants believe the rejections to be obviated by the present amendments to claims 1 and 12 as set forth above, limiting the recited polypeptide to a polypeptide having the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3. In view of these amendments, withdrawal of the present rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-467-9600.

Respectfully submitted



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